

HONORING COMMANDER JOSEPH R. DRINKHOUSE FOR HIS SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Commander Joseph R. Drinkhouse for his 40 years of service in the United States Navy Reserve. As he nears his official retirement on January 1, 2009, Commander Drinkhouse deserves respect and appreciation for his long service in the United States Armed Services.

Commander Drinkhouse served the first 12 years of his Navy career as an enlisted intelligence specialist first class. During this time, his responsibilities increased as he served as an intelligence analyst, team leader, group leader, and leading petty officer. In 1980, Commander Drinkhouse received a direct commission as an intelligence officer with the rank of lieutenant, junior grade.

Commander Drinkhouse received full credentials as an officer agent in 1986, while serving in the Naval Investigative Service Reserve Unit 0893. He supervised an investigative team and conducted criminal investigations, including witness and suspect interviews, scene processing, and evidence collection. Commander Drinkhouse was transferred to Reserve Intelligence Area 15 in 1997, where he set up a team of officers and agents to take part in joint task force exercises as counterintelligence scriptors. For his service during this time, Commander Drinkhouse was awarded the prestigious Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal from the Secretary of the Navy.

Over the past decade Commander Drinkhouse has completed multiple deployments to Bahrain in the Middle East. In 2001, he provided force protection support to the Naval Criminal Investigative Service Middle East Field Office. Commander Drinkhouse also wrote and headed terrorist based exploitation assessment operations and vulnerability assessments while stationed in Bahrain. These services earned Commander Drinkhouse two additional Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals from the Secretary of the Navy. In addition, Commander Drinkhouse provided force protection support at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

Over his long career Commander Drinkhouse has won many awards, including the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with two Gold Stars, the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, the Navy Reserve Meritorious Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, the National Defense Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with Bronze Star, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, and the Navy Expert Rifle Medal and Navy Sharpshooter Pistol Ribbon.

Madam Speaker, Commander Drinkhouse is an excellent role model for young Americans considering serving in the United States Armed Forces. He is an inspiration to service members everywhere, and to all citizens of our great nation. I commend Commander

Drinkhouse for his 40 years of service to our country and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF GLENN W. KRUEGER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Glenn W. Krueger on the occasion of his retirement, and in recognition of his outstanding commitment to his country, his family, and his community. Glenn is retiring as Fire Chief after 41 years of dedicated service to the city of Brook Park.

Glenn Krueger has an immeasurable track record of community and public service. Prior to becoming a fire fighter in Brook Park, Ohio in 1967, he served in the United States Navy from 1960 to 1963. He was hired as a fire fighter for the city of Brook Park on September 15, 1967. Fire fighters often endure long work hours and dangerous conditions when responding to emergency calls. Fire fighters put their lives on the line everyday to protect and serve the community; and are often the first emergency workers to respond to critical situations. In addition to protecting the public from hazardous situations, many fire fighters like Glenn become certified EMT's in order to provide medical treatment at the scene. Glenn was promoted to Lieutenant in 1973 and served as a certified EMT for 6 years. He was again promoted in 1986, this time as Captain of the Brook Park Fire Department. He would serve in that position for 13 years, until his promotion to Fire Chief 8 years ago.

Glenn and his wife Carol Jaye have been married for 46 years and have resided in the city of Brook for the last 36 years. They have five children; Christi, Tricia, Rebecca, Glenn and Scott; and have six grandchildren; Cory, Alicia, Rob, Leah, Jeremy and Jordan.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Glenn W. Krueger, and in recognition of his exceptional leadership and dedication to the city of Brook Park, on the occasion of his retirement as a fire fighter after 41 years of service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NATIONAL RENEWABLE COOPERATIVES ORGANIZATION

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, on the day that the House is considering far-reaching legislation that encourages the development of renewable energy please join me in applauding the efforts of the National Renewable Cooperatives Organization (NRCO).

The North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC) recently announced its participation in the efforts of this newly formed national cooperative to help electric cooperatives develop renewable energy resources through projects and infrastructure improvements.

NCEMC is a generation and transmission cooperative that supplies all or part of the en-

ergy needs to the state's electric cooperatives. North Carolina's electric cooperatives provide energy to 2.5 million people in 93 of 100 counties, primarily in rural parts of the State. The electric cooperatives own and maintain 95,000 miles of power lines, by far the most of any electric utility in North Carolina.

Generation and transmission cooperatives across the nation are already working to further develop renewable resources and many are purchasing renewable energy credits. NRCO provides expertise and information for participating co-ops and provides the opportunity to match the needs of some cooperatives with the practical potential of others.

It is anticipated that NRCO will work with the North Carolina's electric cooperatives' newly formed renewable company, GreenCo Solutions, Inc., to identify cost-effective projects and opportunities to purchase renewable energy credits that will benefit consumers in the future.

By working closely together and sharing information, these electric cooperatives will be able to minimize investment risks and maximize the benefits. This is an important effort with enormous potential to help move America toward energy independence.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in applauding the important outstanding collective and collaborative efforts of the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation and the National Renewable Cooperatives Organization.

IN HONOR OF RON BROWN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ron Brown, and in recognition of his work for social justice and dedication to the Parma Democratic Party. I, along with the Parma Democratic Party, recognize Ron as the Parma Democrat Volunteer of the Year.

Ron has an immeasurable track record of community and public service in the local Democratic Party and for the city of Parma. He graduated from Valley Forge High School in Parma Heights in 1996 and continued his education at Cuyahoga Community College, where he earned a degree in business administration. His dedication to serving the residents of Parma is demonstrated by his 14 years of public service for the city of Parma. He currently works as a case manager for the Parma Public Housing Department and is always at the forefront of activism on behalf of the citizens of Parma.

Ron earns the award of Parma Democrat Volunteer of the Year for his enthusiasm and commitment to the Parma Democratic Party. For years, Ron has worked diligently with the community on voter registration and has volunteered as a precinct chairman. A familiar face to many in the community, he has gone door-to-door, volunteered at polls and canvassed for all the democratic elected officials in Parma. Ron has been a tremendous volunteer and leader for the local Democratic Party.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Ron Brown, and in recognition of his commitment to social justice and public

service, as he is named this years Parma Democrat Volunteer of the Year.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR JUDITH
HANLON

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pastor Judith Hanlon of the Hadwen Park Church, a United Church of Christ Open and Affirming parish, located in Worcester, Massachusetts. She will be formally ordained on Sunday, September 14, 2008.

Pastor Judith Hanlon has distinguished herself as a passionate champion for equal rights by fighting for social justice in the Worcester community and abroad. Raised in Indiana along with six siblings, she was greatly influenced by her upbringing in the Pentecostal church in which her father was a minister. She has two daughters and raised them as a single mother, a noteworthy inspiration to her parishioners. Her deep faith is complemented by her amazing talent and love of music. For 25 years, Pastor Hanlon directed and accompanied singing groups at the Salem Covenant Church in Worcester, Massachusetts. Playing the piano at age 5 and writing music by the age of 9, her musical talent helps to promote her faith and desire for justice. She has produced two CDs of social justice Christian music. After retiring at the age of 45 from her marketing representative career at Verizon—formerly ATT, Pastor Hanlon then pursued her second calling as a pastor.

Serving as the pastor of the Hadwen Park Church since 2000, she quickly and easily gained the love of her community by welcoming all persons with her witty and devoted personality, her positive attitude, and celebratory style. Pastor Judy is courageous in her work for social justice, articulate, inspiring, and often very funny with her messages of love, faith, and overcoming challenges to find the positive side of life. And she is respectful of all people—even in times of disagreement. She is extremely well known for her commitment to and celebration of diversity. Gracelift is her signature e-mail name; it appropriately depicts Pastor Judy and her work.

Under her leadership, Hadwen Park Church proudly moved to become an Open and Affirming parish to show and tell the world that “all are welcome” at HPC—people of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds, sexual orientation, ages, family make up and physical mobility challenges. She led the way to cast—wide open—the welcoming doors. As a result, the church membership has more than doubled, to the point where the former little white church at the corner of Knox and Clover Streets in Worcester could not accommodate the growing stream of Sunday attendees or committee meetings and events. As such she inspired and believed that the mighty little congregation could achieve a million-dollar capital campaign and expansion project. She was right; the project was successfully completed within a short, and miraculous, 2-year time frame. With the ongoing work of the church, it looks like another expansion is needed for meeting rooms and child care needs, the growing food

pantry and more. Staying current with outreach and news, through technology, is important to Pastor Judy; a Web site was created at her suggestion and “A Place of Grace” e-mails are disseminated to hundreds of parishioners and colleagues weekly to promote the important work of the church.

Further, the church family has been active in the fight against HIV/AIDS; provided assistance to Hurricane Katrina and Rita victims through the Hope Shall Bloom Project; organized and inspired youth to do service work in South America and in their community; doubled its food pantry to be able to serve the hungry; and provided assistance to countless people in need from the congregation and in the Greater Worcester area. Pastor Hanlon has also been a tireless advocate for the rights of the GLBT community in her parish, the community and the State. Pastor Judy has been a leader in the effort to promote equal marriage and helped spearhead the “Equal Marriage: The Freedom to Marry Coalition in Massachusetts” initiative. Recently, several immigrants, fleeing from abuse in their country of Jamaica because of their sexual orientation, turned to a safe and welcoming haven with Pastor Judy and Hadwen Park church. As a result, she now helps to lead local efforts to promote human rights for GLBT people in Jamaica. For her work on these issues she was awarded the Safe Homes “People of Courage Award” in 2006.

Madam Speaker, I commend this amazing, grace-filled, and inspiring leader of faith for her dedication to making the Worcester area and our world a better place, and I ask all my colleagues to join me in offering her congratulations on her ordination.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SONGS
OF LIFE INTERNATIONAL CHO-
RAL FESTIVAL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, Bulgaria is an ally of the United States, and this Congress has recognized the Bulgarian people for preserving and continuing their tradition of ethnic and religious tolerance. Most recently, the House of Representatives passed House Resolution 1383, which recognized the 100th anniversary of the independence of Bulgaria.

Through a grassroots movement organized by Kalin and Sharon Tchonev of Lexington, South Carolina, the American-Bulgarian partnership continues to strengthen. Kalin and Sharon have founded the Songs of Life International Choral Festival to be held this November 21st through December 1st. The festival will include performances in Plovdiv and Sofia, Bulgaria, as well as Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, Israel. It marks the 65th anniversary of the historic rescue of Bulgaria's Jews during the Holocaust and serves as an opportunity to connect citizens from these nations on cultural, educational, and spiritual levels. Songs of Life will bring together choirs, musicians, educators, and students from around the world.

Just as our sister-city relationships serve to advance friendships and understanding among

Americans and Bulgarians, the organizers of this festival hope and believe that it will have as positive an impact on an international level. Not only are the United States and Bulgaria allies, but we share common values and a belief in freedom. The Songs of Life International Choir Festival is a platform to share these values with the rest of the world.

I wish to commend Kalin and Sharon Tchonev for their hard work in strengthening the partnership between the United States and Bulgaria.

IN HONOR OF THE EL HASA
TEMPLE #28

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the El Hasa Temple #28 Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, A.E.A.O.N.M.S., on the occasion of their one-hundredth anniversary. The members of El Hasa Temple #28 celebrate this grand anniversary with their 46th annual Potentate Ball. I also rise in honor of El Hasa's current Illustrious Potentate, Andrew D. White, and in recognition of his outstanding leadership and dedication to the community.

El Hasa Temple #28 A.E.A.O.N.M.S. was founded on November 19, 1908, when it obtained its Charter from the Imperial Council. The Charter was delivered to Charles E. Gordon, who became El Hasa's first Illustrious Potentate. On the occasion of El Hasa's one-hundredth anniversary, I also rise in honor of H.H. Franklin, the 25th Illustrious Potentate, F.D. Armstead, the 50th Illustrious Potentate, and LaVon McCall, the 75th Illustrious Potentate. El Hasa is part of an international fraternity built on the values of fellowship, philanthropy and community. During Christmas each year, members of El Hasa Temple #28 distribute Christmas baskets to the economically disadvantaged in the Greater Cleveland Area.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of El Hasa Temple #28, as they celebrate their one-hundredth anniversary during their annual Potentate Ball, and in recognition of the outstanding community work its members contribute to the Greater Cleveland Area.

RECOGNIZING NEAL SUNDEEN,
JOHN ALDECOA AND PAUL
GRIFFEN, AMERICAN LEGION DE-
PARTMENT OF ARIZONA, ADVOCACY FOR THE G.I. BILL

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Neal Sundeen, Mr. John Aldecoa and Mr. Paul Griffen, three individuals from my district whose leadership roles in The American Legion was instrumental in building broad bi-partisan support for the new 21st Century G.I. Bill of Rights. These three men deserve the admiration of their state and nation for their efforts to improve the lives of